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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 IO-13 SAM-01 CU-02 /074 W
---------- 024208
P 090917Z NOV 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2682
INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
FBIS OKINAWA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, MILI, CH
SUBJECT: LIBERATION ARMY DAILY SETS PRAISE FOR HUA AND APPEARS TO GIVE NOD TO HUA AS AN INDEPENDENT FACTOR IN PRC POLICIES

1. LIBERATION ARMY DAILY'S EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 8 ISSUED AN ARTICLE IN PRAISE OF HUA KUO-FENG WHICH BOTH EMPHASIZES HIS CREDENTIAL AS THE PERSONALLY APPOINTED SUCCESSOR TO CHAIRMAN MAO AND SINGLES HIM OUT AS A CAPABLE LEADER IN HIS OWN RIGHT. GOING BEYOND THE STANDARD PRAISE GIVEN TO HUA EITHER AS MAO'S PERSONAL CHOICE FOR THE OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN OR AS THE MAN WHO ACTED WITH THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO OUTS THE "GANG OF FOUR" AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT, THE PLA'S CHIEF ORGAN PLAYS UP HUA AS AN INDEPENDENT ACTOR, WELL-TRAINED AND TESTED BY EVENTS. HE IS "LOYAL TO "MARIXISM-LENINISM-MAO THOUGHT" "SKILLED AT" INTEGRATING THEORY AND PRATICE, AND "FIRM IN"IMPLEMENTING MAO'S LINE, PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES.
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HUA IS IDENTIFED AS HAVING FORMULATED OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED

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"PLANS" WHICH THE "GANG OF FOUR" OPPOSED AND WHICH MAO APPROVED DURING THE PEIOD OF THE CRITICISM OF TENG AND THE RIGHT DEVIATIONIST WIND.

2. THE ARTICLE ANOINTS HUA WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMENDABLE QUALITITES--"LOYAL TO THE PARTY, SELFLESS, OPEN AND STAIGTHFORWARD, MODEST AND PRUDENT" WHICH APPEAR TO MAKR HIM AS THE IDEAL MAN TO FIT THE MAOIST MOLD. OTHER QUALITIES DESCRIBED ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE ATTRIBUTED TO PREMIER CHOU IN TENG'S EULOGY SPEECH (NCNA JANUARY 15) THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT ARTICLE ALSO REFERS TO HUA'S BACKGROUND COMMENTING, IN TERMS SIMILAR TO A QUESTION ATTRIBUTED TO MAO (MING PAO NOVEMBER 2), ABOUT HUA'S EXPERIENCE AT PREFECTURE, PROVINCE AND CENTER LEVELS. THUS EVEN WHILE IT IMPLIES MAO ALSO PICKED HUA BECAUSE OF MAO'S OPPOSITION TO THE "GANG OF FOUR", THE ARTICLE IS CONCERNED TO SHOW HUA AS A MAN OF TALENTS.

3. WITH THE REGULAR CENTER MEDIA ORGANS SOMEWHAT A CLOUD, BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPOSED MANIPULATION BY THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND PARTICULARLY YAO WEN-YUAN, THE PLA ORGAN OBVIOUSLY SERVES AS A VEHICLE FOR THE CENTER TO EMPHASIZE THE QUALITIES OF ITS NEW LEADER. IT IS NEVERTHLESS, STRIKING THAT ONCE AGAIN THE PLA APPEARS TO BE TAKING THE LEADING ROLE IN BACKING HUA. QUITE DISTINCT FROM THE EARLIER EMPHASIS ON HIS JUST BEING CHOSEN BY MAO, THE NEW PRAISE FOR HUA SUGGESTS THAT WE WILL SHORTLY BE SEEING MORE OF HUA THE ACTOR AND DOER, ON THE PEKING STAGE RATHER THAN
SIMPLY THE IMAGE OF A MAN WHO MAO FELT COULD BEST HOLD THINGS TOGEATHER.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK13082
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760417-0033
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761167/aaaacgiy.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <07 Mar 2006 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERATION ARMY DAILY SETS PRAISE FOR HUA AND APPEARS TO GIVE NOD TO HUA AS AN INDEPENDENT FACTOR IN PRC POLICIES
TAGS: PINT, MILI, CH, (HUA KUO-FENG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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